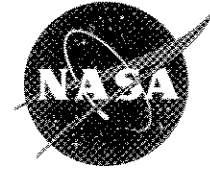


National Aeronautics and Space Administration
Headquarters
Washington, DC 20546-0001



October 21, 2009

General Law Practice Group
Reply to Attn of:

TO: Distribution

FROM: Alternate Designated Agency Ethics Official

SUBJECT: Determination Regarding Attendance by NASA Employees at the Ares 1-X L-1 Launch Reception on October 26, 2009

On October 26 2009, sponsors ATK, Lockheed Martin, and United Space Alliance, will host a reception at the Double Tree Hotel, in Cocoa Beach, FL., from 4:00p.m.-6:00p.m.

The reception will be attended by representatives of the aerospace industry, trade associations, the media, Congressional staffers, Congress, academia, Federal agencies, NASA contractors and NASA personnel. Approximately 250 people have been invited and 100 are expected to attend. The estimated cost of the reception, which includes all food and beverages is \$30.00 per person. I find that the reception meets the requirements of a "widely attended gathering" as defined in 5 C.F.R. §2635.204(g)(2). I have determined that free attendance at the above mentioned reception is in the interest of the agency because it will further agency programs and operations. Attendance at the event will allow NASA employees to discuss NASA's space program with other people who are interested in aerospace issues and space development.

However, NASA employees whose duties may substantially affect the event sponsors, such as by way of procurement duties, should seek an individual determination pursuant to 5 C.F.R. § 2635.204(g)(3)(i) regarding participation in this event from their local ethics counselor. Moreover, NASA employees, who are in non-career positions in which the Executive Order 13490, requires signing an ethics pledge may only attend if they reimburse the sponsors the cost of the refreshments they consume at the reception.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Adam F. Greenstone".

Adam F. Greenstone